

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 and 23 are presently active, and Claims 10-22 and 24-26 having been previously canceled without prejudice.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 4, 7-9 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hinton et al. (US Patent No. 5,450,119) in view of Nakajima (US Patent No. 6,052,211). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hinton et al. in view of Nakajima and in further view of Koide (US Patent No. 5,251,055). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hinton et al. in view of Nakajima and in further view of Ngoi et al. (US Patent No. 6,307,799). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hinton et al. in view of Nakajima and in further view of Kato (US Patent Application Publication 2002/005/7331 A1). Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hinton et al. in view of Nakajima and in further view of Kato and in further view of Hsu et al. (US Patent No. 6,339,490).

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1-9 and 23, Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding grounds for rejection, because in Applicants' view, independent Claims 1 and 23 patentably distinguish over the applied references as discussed below.

Claim 1 recites "the beams traveling toward the deflector have an open angle  $\theta$  in a deflecting rotation plane", "a photodetector configured to receive the beams deflected at the deflector" and "scanning lenses proximate to the target surfaces, among the at least two scanning lenses, configured to guide the beams to different target surfaces have optical actions different from each other".

Instead, Hinton et al. discloses the post polygon lens group 30C, 32C, 34C and 36C (Fig. 3, 4 and 10, and column 6, lines 17-20). However, Hinton et al. fails to teach or suggest that the lens 30C, 32C, 34C and 36C have optical actions different from one another. Thus, Hinton et al. fails to teach or suggest “scanning lenses proximate to the target surfaces, among the at least two scanning lenses, configured to guide the beams to different target surfaces have optical actions different from each other” recited in Claim 1.

Further, the outstanding Office Action states that Hinton et al. is silent in the teaching of a photodetector configured to receive the beams deflected at the deflector, and looks to Nakajima to remedy the deficiency. However, Nakajima describes that the photo sensor 32 detects an onset of a scanning cycle when the light beam 1 reaches the photo sensor 32, and the photo sensor 34 detects an end of the scanning cycle when the light beam 2 reaches the photo sensor 34 (column 5, lines 25-36). Namely, the light beams 1 and 2 are not detected by a photo sensor, but by two independent photo sensors 32 and 34. Thus, Nakajima fails to teach or suggest “a photodetector configured to receive the beams deflected at the deflector” recited in Claim 1. Further, Claim 1 recites that a photodetector is configured to receive the beams, which have an open angle  $\theta$  in a deflecting rotation plane. In this regard, the outstanding Office Action states Hinton et al. discloses in Fig. 3 that beams from light source 34A and 30A have a first open angle and beams from 32A and 36A have a second open angle. However, even if the disclosures of Hinton et al. and Nakajima are combined, such combination never teach or suggest a photo sensor configured to receive the beams, which have an open angle  $\theta$  in a deflecting rotation plane, because the light source 34A and 30A (32A and 36A) in Hinton et al. travel to the opposite directions. Thus, even the combination of Hinton et al. and Nakajima fails to teach or suggest “the beams traveling toward the deflector have an open angle  $\theta$  in a deflecting rotation plane” and “a photodetector configured to receive the beams deflected at the deflector” recited in Claim 1.

In addition, Ngoi et al. and Kato also fail to teach or suggest the elements of Claim 1 above.

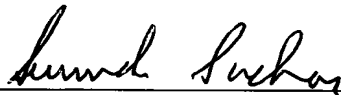
Similarly, Hinton et al., Nakajima, Ngoi et al. and Kato fails to teach or suggest “a photodetector configured to receive the beams deflected at the deflector”, “the beams traveling toward the deflector have an open angle  $\theta$  in a deflecting rotation plane” and “scanning lenses proximate to the photosensitive objects, among the at least two scanning lenses, configured to guide the beams to different photosensitive objects have optical actions different from each other” recited in Claim 23.

Accordingly, independent Claims 1 and 23 patentably distinguish over the applied references. Therefore, independent Claims 1 and 23 and the pending Claims 2-9 dependent from Claim 1 are believed to be allowable.

Consequently, in light of the above discussions, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-9 and 23. The application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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